

REMARKS

- Claims 1, 2 and 18 were pending in this application
- Claims 3 to 17 and 19 were previously canceled without prejudice
- Claims 20 to 31 have been added herein
- Claims 1, 2, 18, and 20 to 31 will be pending upon entry of this amendment
- Claims 1, 18 and 24 will be the only pending independent claims

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,355,321 (hereinafter "Grodstein"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the final office action the Examiner asserts that limitations described in Applicants' prior response are not included in the claims and that the limitations discussed are anticipated by Grodstein. Applicants disagree.

Applicants recite that "one or more latches" exhibit latch transparency. Accordingly, "every latch of the circuit design need not be treated as transparent during modeling." (Applicants' Specification, Page 3, lines 28-29) Applicants respectfully submit the method as claimed in independent claim 1 and the computer program product of independent claim 18 allow the user to select a subset of the latches to be treated as transparent during modeling.

In contrast, Grodstein does not show locally treating latches as transparent. Rather, Grodstein appears to show a system which globally treats latches as transparent. See Grodstein, Col. 1, lines 57-63 and Col. 8, lines 15-38. For example, Grodstein, at Col. 8, lines 18-19, states "some latches will be transparent once per clock cycle, some several times." Grodstein goes on to describe the frequency with which all

latches become transparent. See, for example, Grodstein, Col. 8, lines 29-38.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1 and 18, and Claim 2, which depends from independent claim 1, are not anticipated by Grodstein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Regardless of the above discussion and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 18 to specify that a selected subset of latches of the circuit design are allowed to exhibit latch transparency while still being modeled as non-transparent by the timing tool. Nothing in Grodstein appears to teach or even suggest such selective latch transparency, particularly without changing a latch model from being non-transparent. Thus Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's Section 102 rejection.

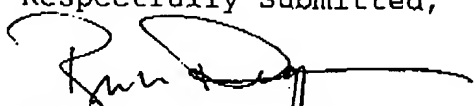
New Claim 24 and the new dependant claims specify that the inputs to a selected subset of latches are altered to cause the latches to exhibit latch transparency. As noted above, Grodstein does not teach selective latch transparency, much less doing so by altering the input to selected latches. Thus, the new claims are also submitted as being allowable over Grodstein. No new matter has been added by addition of these new claims. Support for the new claims is found at least at pg. 7, line 32 to pg. 8, line 13 of Applicants' specification.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

Separate Requests for Continued Examination and for a One-Month Extension of Time are enclosed herewith, with authorization to charge the requisite fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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